

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is made obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. IN THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.121(d) because some of the reference characters are illegible. In response, the Applicants are filing formal drawings. The replacement sheets are attached. As such, the Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 10 AND 20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claim 1

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Gernert, et al. (US Patent 6,600,734, issued July 29, 2003, herein referred to as "Gernert").

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicants have canceled claim 1 without prejudice. Thus, the present rejection is now moot. However, Applicants reserve the rights to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of this canceled claim.

B. Claims 10 and 20

The Examiner has rejected claims 10 and 20 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dougherty, et al. (US Patent 6,831,902, issued December 14, 2004, herein referred to as "Dougherty").

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicants have canceled claims 10 and 20 without prejudice. Thus, the present rejection is now moot. However, Applicants reserve the rights to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of these canceled claims.

III. ALLOWED CLAIMS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for his comments regarding the allowability of claims 2-9, 11-19 and 21-23 if these claims are rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicants have amended claims 2-4, 11, 14, 16-18 and 21 into independent claim form. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 2-9, 11-19 and 21-23 are now in allowable form.

Conclusion

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

Replacement sheets for Figures 1-3 are attached.